

26 May 1966

Dear Miss McAlinden:

This is indeed quite a chunk of flora. Let's see what we can do about it while time permits:

1 - Is a composite and from its delicate leaves must be an Anthemis, probably A. cotula L., an introduced Eurasian weed, Dog-fennel. If the plants have a rather strong, unpleasant odor, the identification is correct.

2 - Is a tree of the same genus as our "California"-pepper. It is called Brazilian-pepper and is likewise from southern South America. Schinus terebinthefolius is much cultivated and volunteers from seed carried by birds. It has come up at the Rancho thus. It is a rather messy tree but the birds like it. We have a couple of specimens in our yard.

3 - is one of the larger leaved Ivy's, possibly Hedera colchica Koch, Colchis Ivy, a close relative of English Ivy, H. helix. I doubt that the berries are poisonous, at least to the birds.

4 - is indeed Acer macrophyllum, the bigleaf Maple. The Sycamore Maple is cultivated but out here one is much more apt to run into the bigleaf Maple, which is one of our mixed evergreen or riparian woodland community trees.

5 - consists of twigs of two different plants, one of which appears to be a sprig of our native California-laurel, Umbellularia californica (H. & A.) Nutt. The Oregonians prefer, of course, to call this Oregon-myrtle. It is not a myrtle but does belong to the laurel family. I also call to the Oregonian's attention the scientific name. The other plant is a native gooseberry. From the spiny fruit I would identify it as Ribes roezlii Regel. The latter is edible if you peel off the prickles with the skin. Certainly the prickles don't seem to bother the birds. The Umbellularia, because of its strong odor, was used, perhaps effectively, by the Indians for headaches and possibly other ailments. Some housewives use the leaves as a substitute for bayleaf, to which this leaf is closely related genetically and chemically.

6 - is Johnny-jumpup, one of our native yellow violets, Viola pedunculata. Richfield Oil Company, I believe, puts out packets of wild-flowers. One of the best California wild-flower books is Phil Munz's "Spring Wildflowers of California" in paperback or hard covers and with many kodachromes in full color. He also has books on the mountain, desert, and shore wild flowers available at any bookstore.

7 - is too fragmentary to hazard more than a guess that it might be one of the gesneriads, related to African-violets. Some of them tend to vine or hang down in the fashion described, and many are opposite-leaved like the enclosed specimen. However, I really need more material, preferably with flowers or fruit, to identify the plant with any degree of accuracy.



8 - seems to be Dombeya calantha Schum. of the Sterculiaceae. It belongs to the same family as our native Fremontodendron and the Guatemalan "Mexican" Hand-plant, Cheiranthodendron. The family is also related to the mallows, hibiscus, cotton, Rose-of-Sharon, etc.

9 - is Myoporum laetum of the Myoporaceae. It is a small tree of New Zealand and does very well along the coast. Note the oil glands in the leaves.

10 - is difficult and I can only really guess at the pieces of dried fruits. They look to be like dried pieces of the fruit of a small citrus, either kumquats or calamondins. The kumquat would be Fortunella japonica, the calamondin, Citrus reticulata 'Calamondin'. They are definitely not apricots this time.

With best regards.

Sincerely,

Robert F. Thorne